



About Delaware's Universal Recycling Law & New Recycling Fee

In spring 2010, the state legislature passed and the governor signed a new state law to offer recycling service to every home and business in Delaware.

Starting in fall 2011, recycling bins and a regular recycling collection will be provided to all single-family homes, though it will be up to homeowners whether or not they choose to use the bins. This service will be expanded to businesses and apartments over the next few years. The goal is to reduce the amount of trash that goes into expensive landfills, thus reducing the cost to the people of Delaware and reducing pollution as well.

In order to make universal recycling work, the new law eliminates the old 5 cent bottle deposit that few people got back and replaces it with a 4 cent recycling fee. The fee will end by December 1, 2014 and, after that, there will be no more added charges to bottles in Delaware. Here are some details:

- Starting December 1, 2010, the 5 cent refundable deposit will no longer be charged on soda and beer bottles.
- Instead, bottles that formerly carried the deposit will now have a 4 cent recycling fee, which is not refundable. This fee will not apply to any additional containers.
- Consumers have until January 31, 2011 to get refunds on bottles for which they paid a deposit before December 1.
- Bottles still labeled with the 5 cent deposit may be on store shelves for a period of time after December 1, 2010. However, the store will not charge the deposit on these bottles and customers will not be able to return them for a refund.
- The 4 cent recycling fee on each bottle will be paid by stores to the State of Delaware and will create the Delaware Recycling Fund, which will help purchase the bins and other equipment needed to offer curbside recycling throughout the state.
- The 4 cent recycling fee will end on December 1, 2014, or possibly sooner if the recycling fee raises \$22 million total. After that, there will be no deposit or fee charged on bottles.

For more information about Delaware's new universal recycling law, go to recycling.delaware.gov or call (302) 739-9403.